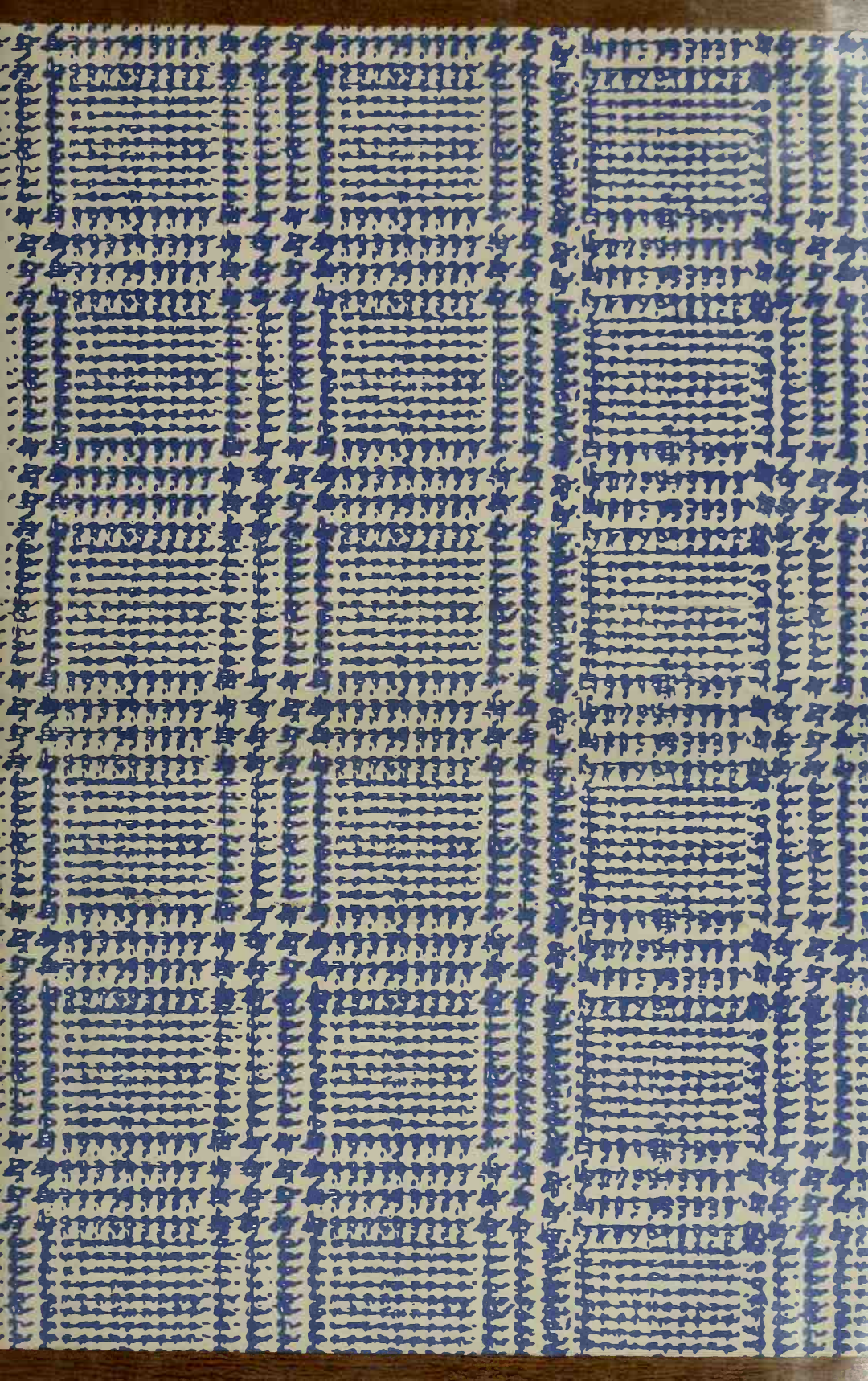

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THE NEWS LETTER

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NUMBER 48 NEW YORK, N. Y. OCTOBER, 1924

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

The annual business meeting of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness will be held in the Russell Sage Foundation Building, 130 East 22d Street, New York, Thursday, November 13th, at half-past four o'clock. This constitutes the legal notice to members.

Heretofore the annual conference of the Committee has consisted of but one meeting. Within the last few years activities have developed along so many lines that a decided change in the annual program has become necessary to meet the specialized interests. This year the conference will cover four days, beginning Monday, November 10th, with an institute particularly arranged for volunteer workers. Every one interested is most cordially invited to attend the meetings.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM OF INSTITUTE

NOVEMBER 10—Morning session. Russell Sage Foundation Building, 10–12.

The Blind in the United States.—Mr. Charles B. Hayes, Director, Bureau of Information and Publicity, American Foundation for the Blind.

The Growth of the Prevention of Blindness Movement.—Mrs. Winifred Hathaway, Secretary, National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness.

Round table discussion of field for volunteer service.—Led by Miss Annette Parke, Chairman, Philadelphia Junior League Committee for Prevention of Blindness.

Afternoon session. Russell Sage Foundation Building, 2–4.

The Eye—Eye Defects—Correction.—Dr. Walter Baer Weidler.

Eyestrain and Its Effects on General Health.—Dr. Ellice M. Alger.

NOVEMBER 11—Morning session.
Demonstration talks in public schools.
Visit to sight saving classes.
Afternoon session. Russell Sage Foundation Building, 2–4.
Common Eye Diseases and Infections.—Dr. Thomas H. Curtin.
Accidents and Eye Hygiene.—Mr. Louis Resnick, Director of Publicity, National Committee for Prevention of Blindness.
Discussion.

NOVEMBER 12—Morning session. Russell Sage Foundation Building, 10–12.
Organizing Local Committees. Miss Eleanor P. Brown, Secretary Junior Committee for the Prevention of Blindness.
Co-operation with Local Agencies.—Mr. Lewis H. Carris, Managing Director, National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness.
Arousing the Interest of Children.—Dr. Elizabeth Kemper Adams, Educational Director, Girl Scouts of America.
Discussion. To be opened by Mr. Charles F. Smith, representing the Boy Scouts of America.
Round table luncheon and discussion, 12.30.
Afternoon session.
Visits to clinics.

TENTATIVE GENERAL PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 10—Russell Sage Foundation Building. Hour to be announced.
Causes of Blindness.—A Proposed Scientific Study—Of special interest to ophthalmologists. Dr. Conrad Berens, Jr.

NOVEMBER 12—Russell Sage Foundation Building, 4 P. M.
Round Table—Sight Conservation Classes.

NOVEMBER 13—Morning session. Russell Sage Foundation Building. 10 A. M.
The Eye-sight of School Children.
A discussion of standardization of visual tests.
Afternoon session. Russell Sage Foundation Building.
4.30 Annual Business Meeting.
5.30 Meeting of the Executive Committee.
6.30 Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Dr. Park Lewis, first vice-president of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, presented a paper at the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress held in Oxford, England, July 3 and 4, 1924. He took as his theme The Results that Can

be Accomplished in Preventing Blindness by Organized Effort. He explained the activities of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, and stressed the great necessity in various parts of Europe and the Orient for international work.

Readers of THE NEWS LETTER will be interested to learn that Miss Linda Neville, Secretary of the Kentucky Association for the Prevention of Blindness since its establishment, has just been appointed by Governor Fields to fill a vacancy on the State Board of Charities and Correction.

A six weeks' summer course for the preparation of teachers of sight conservation classes was given at Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee. Nine states were represented: Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee. The lectures were given by the secretary of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness and the demonstration class conducted by Miss Alice Burdge of Cincinnati.

A revised edition of the *Code of Lighting School Buildings* has been issued under the joint sponsorship of the Illuminating Engineering Society and the American Institute of Architects. Improvements in lighting practice during the past five years made such revision necessary. Particulars regarding the Code may be obtained from the Illuminating Engineering Society, 29 West 39th Street, New York.

The National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness has issued a new publication under an old name, *Eye Hazards in Industrial Occupations*. This is the Committee's twenty-sixth publication. It may be obtained bound in paper or fabrikoid; full particulars will be sent on request.

A year ago the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness initiated an investigation to discover the nature, causes and relative importance of accidents to the eyes. The results show that the sight of at least 4,456 men, women and children in the United States has been destroyed or seriously impaired by accidents during the past twelve months. A summary of the report shows several outstanding facts: (1) industrial accidents

constitute the most serious single group; (2) 85% of the victims are men and boys; (3) 25% are children; (4) next to children's play accidents, automobile accidents are the most serious non-industrial source of eye injuries; (5) explosives and fireworks rank next. The Committee received reports of eye accidents from air rifles, chemicals used outside of industry, chopping firewood, hunting, brawls, baseball, drinking wood alcohol, burns of hot curling irons, slingshots, bows and arrows, golf balls, etc.

The eyes of two hundred children were injured in Fourth of July celebrations.

EXTRACT FROM THE LIFE OF BENVENUTO CELLINI

Now one morning I was sharpening some chisels before beginning my work, when the finest splinter of steel flew into my right eye, entering the pupil so far that it could not be taken out by any means. I thought for certain I should lose the sight of that eye. At the end of several days I called in Maestro Raffaello de' Pilli, the surgeon. He brought with him two live pigeons. Then laying me down on my back on a table, with a knife he cut open a great vein in the birds' wings, so that the blood spurted out into my eye. This eased me at once; by two days the splinter was out, and I was at rest, with my eye-sight better than before. The feast of St. Lucy coming on in three days, I made a golden eye out of a French crown; and had it offered at the saint's shrine by one of my six nieces, the daughters of my sister Liperata. She was about ten years old; and I went with her to Church to thank God and St. Lucy. For some time I gave up working on the Narcissus, but I got on with my Perseus, though under the difficulties I have already spoken of; for I had a mind to finish it, and then to be off.

MAINE

On the invitation of the State Board of Education and the Maine Public Health Association, the secretary of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness gave a series of lectures on the care of the eyes of the school child to a group of 75 teachers of rural schools attending the summer session of the Castine State Normal School.

MISSOURI

In 1922 the pension rolls for the blind increased to a much larger number of applicants than had been anticipated by the legislature.

Approximately six thousand Missouri citizens had made application and had met the requirements of the law. At the rate of $300 per person, per annum, the total claims amounted to one million eight hundred thousand dollars.

A survey made in the state disclosed the fact that of these six thousand applicants fourteen hundred were blind as a result of trachoma. The seriousness of this situation showed the necessity for immediate action for the control of this disease.

July, 1923, a trachoma hospital of 24 bed capacity was established at Rolla; it has been filled ever since, and there is a long waiting list.

The difficulty of treating rural patients is being solved by traveling clinics established by the State Board of Health in co-operation with the U. S. Public Health Service and the people of the communities where clinics are held. More than 40,000 persons have been examined in over 40 counties, and 1,114 cases of trachoma have been treated. The State Board of Health has tabulations of 1,655 cases found in the survey and reported by private physicians.

In addition to actual treatment, an educational campaign is being conducted.

Since the etiology of trachoma is not yet known, the State Board of Health requested the U. S. Public Health Service to establish a branch of its Hygienic Laboratory at Rolla in conjunction with the trachoma hospital to do scientific research on the cause of this dread disease. This laboratory is now in operation, having been established March 15th. The work contemplated will be mainly concerned with the following:

1. Attempt to reproduce the disease in animals with material obtained from typical cases of trachoma.
2. Isolation and culture of causative virus or organism.
3. Reproduction of disease in animals with cultures thus obtained.

New Jersey

The Bureau of Child Hygiene of the State Department of Health gives the following items of interest: During the year 1923 the Bureau examined 28,664 children, of whom 2,382 were found to have defective vision; 637 had the defects corrected. The Bureau has about 90 nurses, representing some 200 communi-

ties. The work of these nurses with the school child differs in the various localities in accordance with the wishes of the medical inspector. In some schools the nurses make all the eye examinations, referring to the doctor such cases as would seem to need his attention. In some instances the medical inspector makes all eye examinations.

In prenatal work the nurses are instructed particularly to watch for ophthalmia and to secure aid at the earliest possible moment, also to instruct the mother in the care of the eyes.

Midwives are licensed and supervised and particularly instructed in the care of the eyes; the use of silver nitrate in the eyes of the newborn by the midwife is compulsory.

Two sight conservation classes have been opened in Newark, New Jersey. Newark is the second city of the state to establish such classes. Paterson opened the first class at the beginning of the last school year.

NEW YORK

Article 39–a of the Education Laws of the University of the State of New York, Section 1020, provides that within one year from when the Act becomes effective (May 18, 1917) the Board of Education of each city and of each union free school district shall ascertain the number of children in such city or district under the age of eighteen years who are blind, deaf, so crippled or otherwise so physically defective as to be unable to attend upon instruction in regular classes maintained in the public schools, and shall in each city and each free school district in which there are ten or more such children establish such special classes as may be necessary to provide instruction adapted to their mental attainments and physical conditions.

No appropriation was made to carry out the mandates of this law until April 18, 1924, when the following amendment was made to take effect August 1, 1924:

"If the board of education of a city or union free school district establishes one or more special classes for the instruction of deaf, blind, crippled, or otherwise physically defective children, as provided in this article, and shall employ one or more teachers for the instruction thereof, the commissioner of education shall apportion to such city or district, in the same manner as teachers' quotas are apportioned thereto, an amount equal to one-half the

salary paid to each of such teachers, but not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000) for each teacher so employed. No such apportionment shall be made on account of a teacher so employed unless there shall have been issued to such teacher by the commissioner of education a certificate authorizing such teacher to teach such special classes or unless such teacher shall possess the qualifications prescribed by the commissioner of education."

This will make possible the establishment of classes for the blind, the deaf, and the crippled, and sight saving classes for children with such seriously defective vision that they cannot be educated in the regular grade.

The *Health Bulletin* of the New York State Department of Health tells of two cases of carelessness and neglect terminating in child blindness.

(1) "Very few specimens from cases of suspected ophthalmia are received at the state laboratory. However one examined recently contained morphologically typical gonococci. It was accompanied by a history slip which gave the following information: Birth attended by unlicensed midwife—neglected case—treatment late." The State Broad of Health reports that the child in question became blind.

(2) "I am sorry to report that this baby is so nearly blind that he will have to receive his education in a school for the blind." This is the report on the condition of the eyesight of a baby born two and one half years ago at a hospital in one of the large cities of the state.

A more cheerful message comes from the New York State Commission for the Blind:

"*No Longer Blind.* One of several successful operations arranged for by Miss Clendinning, Commission Head Nurse, has given the Commission much satisfaction. To receive the following expressions of gratitude makes the effort expended a pleasure: 'I cannot express my gratitude but I sincerely trust "That your bread cast upon the waters may return to you, jelly roll." You have not made just one person grateful, but many.'

"'I am not day dreaming when I tell you that the left eye is gaining from day to day.'

"'Do you want another eye case from up-State? I have taken the liberty of writing a friend some of my experiences and sug-

gested that she communicate with you and that she can bank on first-class service in that event.' The writer's name has since been removed from the register of the blind, due to improved vision."

OKLAHOMA

A sight conservation class, the first in the state, is being organized at Tulsa by Dr. A. G. Reed, Director of Visual Education of the city schools.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Department of Labor and Industry, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, reports the loss of 400 eyes during the first seven months of 1924, with compensation awards of $616,589.00.

The total number of eyes lost between the inception of the compensation act, January 1, 1916, and July 31, 1924, is given as 5,089, with a total compensation award of $6,818,352.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST IN CONSERVING SIGHT

LIGHT AND WORK, M. Luckiesh. Published by Van Nostrand & Co., New York, 1924. A discussion of quantity and quality of light in relation to effective vision and efficient work. Although several chapters are scientific and technical, there is a great deal to interest the general reader who desires to get a practical idea of lighting.

LIGHTING AND PRODUCTION, *The Nation's Health*, September 15, 1924. "We have several times emphasized the need for clean-cut evidence in regard to the influence of illumination upon factory production and such evidence is at last appearing in gratifying amount and from various sources. The latest data upon the subject comes from England in a report by W. E. Bush (*Engineering-Production*, May, 1924) of the results which followed improvement in lighting in nine different English factories. . . . The illumination was poor, ranging from 0.2 to 4.6 candle power before improvement; while after improvement the illumination ranged from 4.8 to 18.0 candle power. The cost of the new lighting amounted to from 0.6 to 5.0 per cent of the daily pay roll and the resulting increase in production from 4 to 35 per cent."

LIGHT, SIGHT AND SAFETY, R. E. Simpson. *The Central Station*, July, 1924. "Faulty lighting and poor eyesight are today the major factors in one out of every eight accidents."

Illuminating and Proper Painting of Interiors, Walter Sturrock, *The Nation's Health*, August 15, 1924. "Proper lighting, either natural or artificial, in our industrial plants is today being very carefully considered because it has been found that where better illumination has replaced inadequate lighting, results such as the following have been obtained: (1) reduction of accidents; (2) greater accuracy in workmanship; (3) decreased spoilage of product; (4) increased production for the same labor cost; (5) less eye-strain; (6) better working conditions; (7) less labor turnover; (8) better order, cleanliness and neatness in the plant; and (9) easier supervision of the men.

"Improving the illumination by use of the proper finish on the side walls and ceiling of an interior does not necessarily mean solely increasing the amount of light on the work; other things must be considered, such as how it aids in light diffusion, minimizes shadows and reduces glare; how it creates the appearance of brightness."

Eye Hazards in Industrial Occupations, Louis Resnick and Lewis H. Carris. Publication No. 26 of the publications of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. The result of a two-years' study of all phases of eye hazards in industry.

Why Industry Needs the Safety Movement, J. M. Larkin, *National Safety News*, July, 1924. "The returns from accident prevention are threefold, they are a return to the employer in lower costs, a return to the employe in a physical and monetary saving, and a return to the community through a lessening of care for the maimed and disabled."

Eyesight Conservation in Industry, Frank E. Burch, M.D., *Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics No. 359*. "The principal means of eyesight conservation in industry can be summarized briefly under five heads: (1) Education; (2) illumination; (3) vision testing and correction of visual defects by glasses; (4) prompt and efficient medical service; (5) protection of the eyes themselves."

Protecting Eyesight of Workers, *Iron Trade Review*, August 28, 1924. An abstract of Eye Hazards in Industrial Occupations by Louis Resnick and Lewis H. Carris, published in 1924 by the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness.

Behind the Safety Goggle Lens, George Earl Wallis, *National Safety Engineering*, July, 1924. "The remarkable record of safety goggles in protecting the eyes of workers is an outstanding achievement in the history of industrial safety."

Gilded Glasses vs. Glare, *Safety Engineering*, September, 1924. "Gilded glasses—yellow glass upon which is a coating of gold—

which, it is claimed, eliminate heat and glare from light and yet permit sufficient illumination for sight, have been invented by Dr. A. H. Pfund, associate professor of physics at Johns Hopkins University. Used in goggles for men who work in the glare of furnaces, the device, termed by the inventor "gold screen," will eliminate danger of blindness, physicians say. In the moving picture industry it is regarded as a protection against fire."

FORTY FATAL ACCIDENTS, Robert Northrup, *Industrial Hygiene Bulletin*, New York State Department of Labor, September, 1924. Gives a table showing factors that were contributing causes of these accidents.

Carelessness of victim	3
Disobeying safety instructions	3
Inexperience	7
Intoxication	1
Labor turnover	12
Lighting fair	4
poor	5
bad	3
Machine appliance or condition not properly safeguarded	21
Safety activities fair	5
poor	10
none	20
Unsafe practice	9
Ventilation poor	1
bad	2

APPROPRIATE TYPOGRAPHICAL STYLE IN PUBLIC HEALTH PRINTING, Douglas C. McMurtrie, *The Nation's Health*, August, 1924. "Turn out a piece of topography 'friendly to the eye,' easy to read and hence likely to attain the results it is intended to achieve."

SIX CHILDREN IN SEARCH OF AN EDUCATOR, Ira S. Wile, M.D., *Survey*, September 1, 1924. Shows the need for understanding teachers by two children who were dull, two who were brilliant and two with hidden handicaps. In these studies, Vera and Ellis will be of particular interest to those looking to attention to visual defects as a means to better health and co-ordination.

MINOR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, *Weekly Bulletin of the Department of Health*, City of New York, August 16, 1924. Gives directions as to action to be taken. Notes number of occurrences in 1916 and 1923.

	1916	*1923*
Conjunctivitis	26,942	4,732
Trachoma	8,798	327

The Health of the School Child in Greece, Dr. Emmanuel N. Lampadarios, *The World's Health*, July, 1924. "The trachoma statistics for the schools of Athens show the following:

"Pupils suffering from trachomatous conjunctivitis during the school year:

1918–19	4.58 percent
1919–20	3.06 "
1920–21	1.02 "
1921–24	0.05 "

"This gratifying result is due to the following measures taken by sanitary service in the schools: instruction of teachers in prophylaxis and isolation of trachomatous pupils; educational pamphlets on trachoma; supervision by health inspectors; examination of pupils, diagnosis of trachoma and isolation; treatment of trachomatous pupils by specially trained workers; establishment of sections in school polyclinics for treatment of diseases of the eye; establishment of special schools for trachomatous children."

Mexico—Prevention of Blindness, *Bulletin of the Pan-American Union*, July, 1924. "During 1923, this association, which is supported by public-spirited people throughout the Republic, treated 52,814 persons in its clinics, prescribing the necessary treatment and many times giving the medicine required free of charge. In the association's clinics 136 diseases of the eye have been observed."

Migraine, A. F. Hurst, *Lancet*, London, July 5, 1924. Stresses the point that the most important part of the treatment of migraine is the prevention of eye-strain. Author states that he has never yet seen a case in which eye-strain was not present, and only two in which its correction did not cure the patient or lead to very considerable improvement.

Training of Midwives, Janet M. Campbell, Abstract by Taliaferro Clark, M.D., *The Chicago Medical Record*, August, 1924. Dr. Clark's abstract sums up the requirement for the training of midwives in Great Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland and Holland.

A Survey of the Midwife Situation in Minnesota, E. C. Hartley, M.D., and Ruth E. Boynton, M.D. The report sums up these findings: a total of 166 midwives found, of which 118 were unlicensed; the number of midwives is decreasing; most midwives are foreign born; practically all unlicensed midwives are located outside the three large cities—Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth; of the licensed midwives, 72.7% had training in a school for midwives; of the unlicensed, 12.5% had an equivalent training.

Various Responsibilities for Preventing Blindness, Lewis H. Carris, *American Medicine*, September, 1924. Discusses

the cost of supporting the blind; the responsibilities of states authorities, educational systems, engineering and architectural organizations, employers and others, for preventing blindness; gives a very definite program of methods of attacking the problem.

"The state is concerned with its self preservation and perpetuation and must take all steps necessary where there is a proved weakness. Blindness or any considerable loss of vision is a social liability, the elimination of which makes a stronger state financially and physically."

Of Interest to Medical Readers

ETIOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF SQUINT; RESULTS OF SOME OPERATIVE CASES, Charles M. Young, M.D., *Virginia Medical Monthly*, August, 1924. Urges early treatment of squint not only on account of disfigurement, but for the more important consideration of preserving vision in the squinting eye. "The vision in the squinting eye is lost in about 85% of the cases from lack of use and cannot be improved unless intelligently treated before the age of six years."

STANDARDS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, George S. Derby, M.D., *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, July 26, 1924. Discusses methods of raising the standards of ophthalmology.

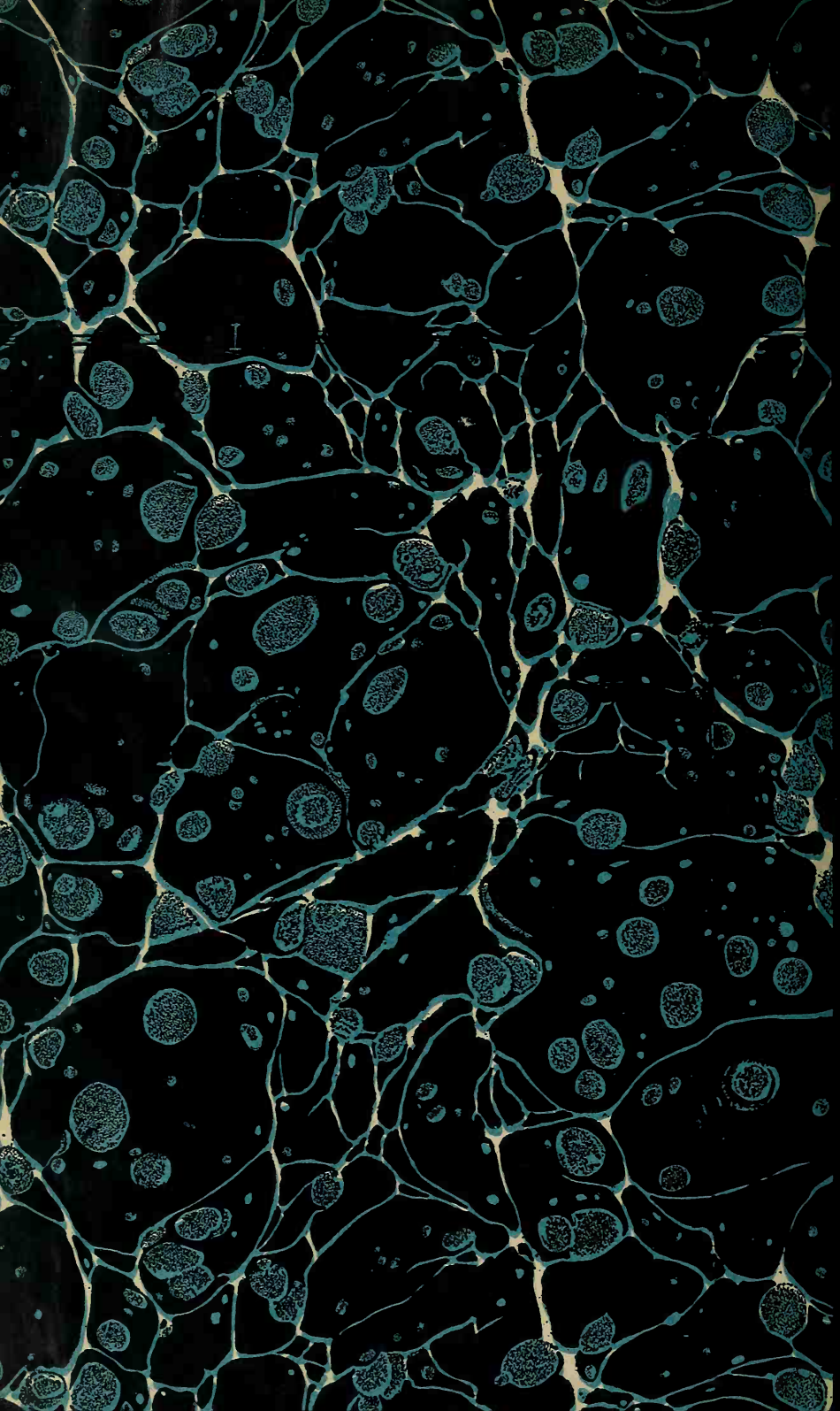
GLAUCOMA, Charles Maghy, M.D., *Better Health*, July, 1924. "In America glaucoma constitutes about one per cent of all eye diseases. In the British Isles and part of Europe it is even more common." "Anyone who entrusts his eyesight to unqualified practitioners and mere spectacle vendors is engaging in a hazardous enterprise."

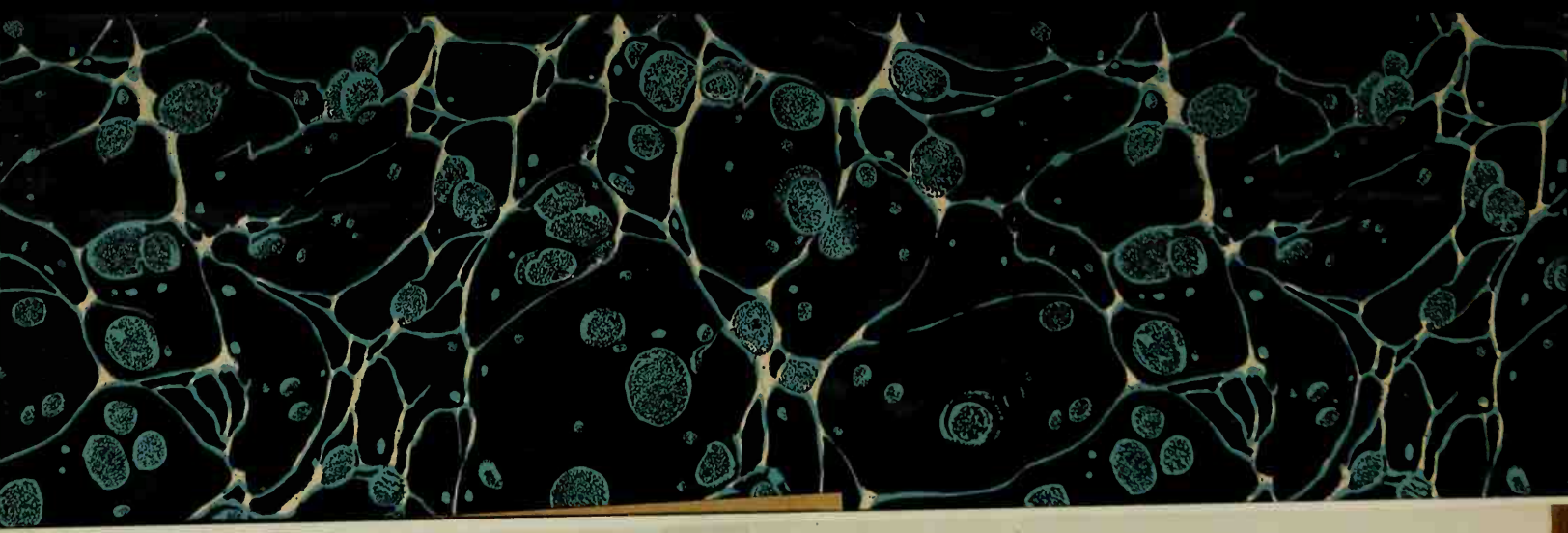
EYE COMPLICATIONS IN THE DISEASES OF CHILDHOOD, H. G. Peabody, M.D., *The Western Optical World*, August, 1924. Considers eye complications in scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria, mumps and whooping cough.

EDEMA OF THE EYELIDS, S. Judd Beach, M.D., *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, July 5, 1924. Pathology, causation and diagnosis with a report of two cases.

TRYPARSAMIDE TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM—OBSERVATIONS FROM AN OPHTHALMOLOGIC STANDPOINT, Walter I. Lillie, M.D., *Journal of the American Medical Association*, September 13, 1924. Report of the ocular findings in 114 patients, with conclusions drawn.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEREDITARY BLINDNESS, Lucien Howe, M.D.; William T. Belfield, M.D.; Harry H. Laughlin, Ph.D. "Clinical records show that at least 34 defects of the eye, including the lids and muscles, have been found to be distinctly hereditary. Of these at least eight are apt to produce blindness either directly or indirectly."





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